

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-09 L-02

FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03

OES-03 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ABF-01 ERDA-05 /111 W

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R 020610Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2616

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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VIENNA FOR IAEA AND UNIDO; PARIS FOR UNESCO; MONTREAL FOR PIO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNEP, SENV

SUBJECT: UNEP: GC III, SESSIONAL COMMITTEE II, AGENDA ITEMS 10  
AND 11 (REPORTS, PROCEDURAL AND BUDGET QUESTIONS)

SUMMARY: SESSIONAL COMMITTEE II HELD NINE MEETINGS FROM 18  
APRIL TO 30 APRIL. DEBATE CONDUCTED IN BUSINESS-LIKE ATMOSPHERE  
WITH POLITICAL AND CONFRONTATION OVERTONES VIRTUALLY NON-  
EXISTENT. US DEL BELIEVES ALL ITEMS DEALT WITH SATISFACTORILY  
FROM POINT OF VIEW US INTERESTS. SUMMARY COMMITTEE'S RECOMM-  
ENDATIONS FOLLOWS. END SUMMARY.

1. ITEM 10 (1) GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR EXECUTION OF PROJECTS:  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED APPROVAL GUIDELINES AS PRESENTED IN DOC.

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37. DEBATE THIS ITEM FOCUSED ON DESIRABILITY DEVELOPMENT OF

MECHANISM FOR EVALUATING FUND-SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES. SECRETARIAT, (FUND DIRECTOR BERTHOUD) SAID COMPLETED AND ON-GOING PROJECTS WERE EVALUATED ON AD HOC BASIS. NEVERTHELESS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOGNIZED NEED FOR SYSTEMATIC EVALUATION AND WOULD GIVE THIS SUBJECT INCREASED ATTENTION. HOPED, HOWEVER, COUNCIL WOULD NOT ASK SECRETARIAT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THEORETICAL LITERATURE ALREADY EXISTING WITHIN UN SYSTEM ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. ITEM 10(2): AMENDMENTS TO GENERAL PROCEDURES: SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSED AMENDMENTS (DOC. 38) APPROVED WITHOUT OBJECTION. THESE AMENDMENTS CONSEQUENTIAL TO CHANGES DECIDED BY THE COUNCIL (SOME AT GC II) IN UNEP BUDGET CYCLE AND PROCEDURES. PHILIPPINE DEL, SECONDED BY KENYA, PROPOSED FURTHER CHANGES IN PROCEDURES AS TIDYING UP EXERCISE, BUT ABANDONED EFFORT WHEN SECRETARIAT, ENDORSED BY US DEL, POINTED OUT POTENTIAL PROBLEMS THIS WOULD CAUSE IN VIEW OF ARDUOUS EFFORTS EXPENDED IN NEGOTIATING PROCEDURES AT GC/I.

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3. ITEM 10(3): FUND PROGRAM RESERVE: AFTER DEBATE WHICH CENTERED ON APPROPRIATE USE OF THIS RESERVE, COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED ESTABLISHMENT OF RESERVE AT \$1 MILLION DOLLARS AS RECOMMENDED IN PARA 7, DOC. 39, BUT RECOMMENDED AGAINST USE OF RESERVE FOR PRE-PROGRAMMING ACTIVITIES (EXCEPT TO EXTENT SUCH ACTIVITIES ARE GENUINELY UNFORESEEN) AND SUPPORT TO DATA-GATHERING RELATED TO PREPARATION OF LEVEL I REPORT, (PARA 7(B), DOC. 39) ON GROUNDS THAT THESE ACTIVITIES WOULD USUALLY BE COSTED AND THEREFORE SHOULD BE COVERED IN OTHER (PROGRAM) ACTIVITY ESTIMATES. COMMITTEE ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT PARAS 7(D) AND (E) OF DOC. 39 BE SIMPLY NOTED, SINCE APPROVAL WOULD CARRY IMPLICATION OF AUTOMATIC INCREASES IN RESERVE.

4. ITEM 10(4): FINANCIAL RESERVE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION IN PARA 7, DOC. 45, THAT LEVEL FOR EACH YEAR BE SET AT APPROXIMATELY EIGHT PERCENT OF APPROVED VOLUME OF EXPENDITURES APPROVED AFTER BRIEF DEBATE. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS QUESTIONED "APPROXIMATE" NATURE OF PERCENTAGE. SECRETARIAT EXPLAINED THAT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FELT LEVEL SHOULD BE EXPRESSED IN ROUNDED FIGURES, HENCE USE OF "APPROXIMATE."

5. ITEM 10(5): FINANCIAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS AND REPORT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BOARD OF AUDITORS: IN DEBATE THIS ITEM, WHICH CONCERNED ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1973, SEVERAL DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING US, QUESTIONED PROPRIETY OF UNEP/GC NOTING OR ACCEPTING SUCH ACCOUNTS IN VIEW OF FACT ACCOUNTS HAD ALREADY BEEN ACCEPTED BY UNGA. QUESTION RESOLVED BY RECOMMENDATION THAT COUNCIL TAKE NOTE OF THE RELEVANT UNGA RESOLUTION AND THAT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRESENT PROBLEM TO GC/IV IN LIGHT OF CONSULTATIONS WITH UNSYG. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED CONCERN, AS AT GC/II, THAT UNEP/GC

UNABLE, BECAUSE OF SCHEDULING PROBLEM RELATING TO TIMING SUB-MISSION ACCOUNTS TO AUDITORS IN RELATION DATES OF COUNCIL AND UNGA SESSIONS, TO REVIEW AUDITED ACCOUNTS PRIOR THEIR CONSIDERATION BY UNGA.

6. ITEM 11(A): REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION FUND PROGRAM IN 1974:  
DEBATE THIS ITEM SOMEWHAT DISCONNECTED WITH DELEGATIONS STILL EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTY IN ARRIVING AT SATISFACTORY PROCEDURE FOR CONDUCTING THIS REVIEW. NO CLEAR FOCUS ON ANY PARTICULAR ASPECT OF REPORT, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE LOW-LEVEL OF EXPENDITURES (AS AGAINST AVAILABLE RESOURCES) FOR FUND-PROGRAM ACTIVITIES IN 1974. IN RESPONSE, SECRETARIAT FRANKLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT HAD OVERESTIMATED ITS "ABILITY . SPEND" WHEN THE 1974 PROGRAM WAS ORIGINALLY PRESENTED. WHEN FACED WITH TASK, SECRETARIAT FOUND IT HAD NOT YET DEVELOPED THE NECESSARY "INTELLECTUAL AND MANAGERIAL CAPACITY" NECESSARY TO EXECUTE PROGRAMS ON SCALE ENVISAGED. NOR HAD UNEP SUFFICIENTLY DEVELOPED ITS WORKING RELATIONS WITH OTHER AGENCIES. SECRETARIAT FELT THIS PROBLEM HAD NOW BEEN OVERCOME. BRIEF EXCHANGE ON ISRAELI PROJECT, PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, HAS NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN FURTHER REFERRED TO IN EITHER COMMITTEE OR PLENARY.

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7. ITEM 11(A) PREFEASIBILITY STUDY ON CONSTRUCTION PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS: AFTER BRIEF DISCUSSION, COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED APPROVAL ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION OF \$50,000 FOR DETAILED ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SURVEY TO AUGMENT SIMILAR AMOUNT ALREADY APPROVED BY UNGA. SECRETARIAT ACKNOWLEDGED, IN RESPONSE US DEL, THAT TIME-TABLE ENVISAGED IN DOC. 46 UNREALISTIC AND THAT EARLIEST REPORT COULD BE SUBMITTED WOULD BE 31ST UNGA. US DEL ALSO USERIED WHETHER STUDY HAD BEEN MADE OF RELATIVE ECONOMIES RENTAL FACILITIES VEREAS COST OF CONSTRUCTING PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS. SECRETARIAT RESPONDED THAT DETAILED COMPARISON COULD ONLY BE MADE WHEN ARCHITECTURAL-ENGINEERING STUDY COMPLETED. (NOTE: SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL TOLD US DEL MEMBER PRIVATELY THAT SEARCH FOR SUITABLE RENTAL PREMISES HAD BEGUN ALMOST AS SOON AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECRETARIAT HAD MOVED INTO KENYATTA TOWER, BUT WITH VERY DIS-  
COURAGING RESULTS. SUITABLE COMMERCIAL FACILITIES SIMPLY NOT  
AVAILABLE.)

8. ITEM 11(A) REVOLVING FUND (INFORMATION): THIS FUND,  
APPROVED BY GC/II, WAS NOT BROUGHT INTO EXISTENCE IN 1974 BECAUSE  
IT HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE DEVELOP RULES IN TIME. THIS HAD NOW  
BEEN DONE AND FUND EXPECTS BEGIN OPERATIONS IN 1975. COMMITTEE  
AUTHORIZED ALLOCATION OF \$100,000 TO THIS FUND (SIMILAR AMOUNT  
AUTHORIZED FOR 1974 LAPSED SINCE FUND DID NOT OPERATE IN THAT  
YEAR). FROM FUND PROGRAM RESERVE FOR 1975.

9. ITEM 1F,C) AND 7D): RATIONALE FOR ALLOCATION UNEP EXPENSES  
BETWEEN UN REGULAR BUDGET AND ENVIRONMENT FUND: DEBATE THIS  
ISSUE REVEALED WIDESPREAD DISSATISFACTION OVER ZERO STAFF  
GROWTH APPROACH TO UNEP SECTION OF REGULAR BUDGET (PARA 15, DOC.  
42). PHILIPPINES, NETHERLANDS, AUSTRALIA, SWEEDEN, TANZANIA  
ALL EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT EFFECT THIS APPROACH WAS TO UNDERMINE  
INTENT OF BASIC RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING UNEP JFD ALL, TO ONE  
DEGREE OR ANOTHER, INCLINED URGE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REOPEN NEO-  
TIATIONS WITH SYG. US, UK AND FRANCE DEFENDED PARA 15 IN DOC. 42  
AS REASONABLE SOLUTION TO DIFFICULT PROBLEM IMPOSED BY NECESSITY  
FINANCIAL STRINGENCIES IN UN. CANADA, FRG, FINLAND AGREED,  
BUT WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE AND VARYING EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN FOR  
INTEGRITY RES. 2997 (PXIS). EVEN USSR, WHILE ENDORSING DOC. 42,  
SUGGESTED TIME MIGHT COME WHEN DECISION COULD BE RELAXED. THIS  
POSITION ENDORSED BY GDR AND POLAND, ALTHOUGH LATTER ADDED NEW

TWIST BY WONDERING WHETHER UNEPCOUNCIL COMPETENT TO TAKE DECISION ON MATTER, THREATENED IMPASSE THIS MATTER RESOLVED BY CANADIAN PROPOSAL, WHICH ACCEPTED BY COMMITTEE, THAT COUNCIL APPROVE RATIONALE RECOMMENDED PART A DOC. 42 FOR BIENNIUM 1976-77 INSTEAD OF "FOR TIME BEING," WHICH WAS ED'S FORMULATION IN PARA 15. COMMITTEE ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT ED BE REQUESTED SEEK ASSURANCE FROM SYG THAT STAFF COSTS BETWEEN UN REGULAR BUDGET AND FUND WOULD BE REASSESSED FOR 1978-1979 BIENNIUM.

10. REVISED 1974-75 ESTIMATES FOR PROGRAM AND PROGRAM SUPPORT COSTS. COMMITTEE MADE DETAILED EXAMINATION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS, IN LIGHT OF ACABQ REPORT WHICH FINALLY BECAME AVAILABLE AFTER DELEGATION'S ARRIVAL IN NAIROBI. QUESTIONS RAISED BY ACABQ ON BOTH REVISED 1975 AND 1976-77 ESTIMATES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WERE RESPONDED TO IN DETAILED WRITTEN RESPONSE PREPARED BY SECRETARIAT. IN LIGHT ADDITIONAL JUSTIFICATION PRESENTED, COMMITTEE ACCEPTED ED'S ESTIMATES AND RECOMMENDED COUNCIL APPROVAL OF ALLOCATION OF \$5,221,000 (INCLUDING \$50,000 FOR HEADQUARTERS) FOR PROGRAM AND PROGRAM SUPPORT COSTS FOR 1975.

11. ITEM 11(C) AND (D): PROPOSED BUDGET FOR PROGRAM AND PROGRAM SUPPORT COSTS, 1976-1977. HERE TOO MOST DELEGATES SPEAKING INCLUDING US QUESTIONED STAFF INCREASES, BOTH LEVEL AND NUMBER, ESPECIALLY PROPOSED ADDITIONAL D-1 POSTS IN BUREAU OF PROGRAM. ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR PROGRAM FROSCHE MADE SPECIAL APPEARANCE BEFORE COMMITTEE TO DEFEND REQUEST. HE POINTED OUT THAT DEMANDS ON DIVISION HEADS, WHICH REQUIRED EXTENDED ABSENCES FROM NAIROBI, WHILE SUBSTANTIVE BACKSTOPPING AND STAFF GUIDANCE AT HEADQUARTERS DEMANDED HIGH-LEVEL COMPETENCE. COMMITTEE WAS MOVED, HOWEVER, BY HIS INSPIRED PLEA FOR STAFF INCREASES IN DIVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING (FLOATED IN COMMITTEE BY TANZANIA) AND ACCEPTED SECRETARIAT (BERTHOUDE) EXPLANATION THAT NO INCREASE DEEMED NECESSARY SINCE THIS DIVISION, REFLECTING ED'S CONCEPTION OF PROPER HANDLING THESE ACTIVITIES, WAS NOT SELF-CONTAINED UNIT BUT SHOULD RELY ON SUBSTANTIVE SUPPORT FROM OTHER PROGRAM DIVISIONS. AT CONCLUSION ITS DEBATE, COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED ALLOCATION FOR PROGRAM AND PROGRAM SUPPORT COSTS OF \$12,103,000 FOR BIENNIUM 1976-77.

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12. ITEM 11 - ADDITIONAL SUB-ITEM ON PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION  
TEMPORARY PREMISES. DISCUSSION THIS ITEM INITIATED BY CHIEF,  
DIVISION ADMINISTRATION, WHO READ FOLLOWING TELEGRAM RECEIVED  
FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL, OFFICE OF FINANCIAL SERVICES,  
AND CONTROLLER OF THE UNITED NATIONS: "ON PROPOSED NOTE BY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO GOVERNING COUNCIL ON CONSTRUCTION TEM-  
PORARY PREMISES, ON BAYCS INFORMATION PROVIDED, I HAVE NO OB-  
JECTION TO ISSUANCE OF ABOVE NOTE SUBJECT TO FPAME STATING  
CLEARLY THAT IN NO CASE ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL IMPLICATION WILL  
ARISE UNDER REGULAR BUWOET FOR ANY BIENNUIUM. I WILL INFORM  
CHAIRMAN ACABQ BY LETTER AND WOULD APPRECIATE BEING  
INFORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE RELATED DECISION BY GOVERNING COUN-  
CIL." KENYA DEL STRESSED IMPORTANCE GOK ATTACHED TO PROJECTED  
MOVE OF UNEP TO NEW PREMISES SINCE PROJECTED GROWTH OF UNEP  
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IN LIGHT PLANNED USE OF KENYATTA CONFERENCE CENTER WOULD MAKE  
CONTINUED OCCUPATION BY UNEP OF PRESENT HEADQUARTERS VERY  
DIFFICULT. HE CONFIRMED KENYAN SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION OF 300,000

KENYAN POUNDS (EQUIVALENT US \$840,000) TO PROJECTED CONSTRUCTION TEMPORARY QUARTERS. US DEL EFFORT PIN DOWN MAGNITUDE UN REGULAR BUDGET COMMITMENT NOT ENTIRELY SUCCESSFUL IN LIGHT TELEGRAM FROM UN HEADQUARTERS. SECRETARIAT RESPONDED THAT AMOUNT REQUIRED FROM UN REGULAR BUDGET AS OUTLINED IN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE WAS BEST ESTIMATE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE, BUT WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT IN DETAIL WITH SYG. (COMMENT: US DEL DECIDED NOT PRESS MATTER FURTHER IN LIGHT DISCUSSION ON ITEM DEALING WITH ALLOCATION EXPENSES BETWEEN UN REGULAR BUDGET AND FUND, PARA 9 ABOVE. DELEGATION BELIEVES ANY PRESSING OF MATTER COULD WELL HAVE BEEN COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, LEADING TO STRONG EXPRESSIONS FOR THE RECORD, IF NOT OUTRIGHT DECISION THAT ED SHOULD PRESS FOR UN REGULAR BUDGET COMMITMENT AT LEAST EQUIVALENT TO PRESENT UN COMMITMENT FOR RENTAL OF PRESENT QUARTERS. END COMMENT). MANY DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM THAT TEMPORARY PREMISES COULD BE BUILT WITHIN TIME SCALE ENVISAGED. COMMITTEE'S RESERVATIONS THIS PROJECT EXPRESSED IN RECOMMENDATION THAT COUNCIL APPROVE IN PRINCIPLE CONSTRUCTION TO TEMPORARY PREMISES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ED'S PROPOSAL IN DOC. 54

AND REQUEST THE ED TO REPORT FULLY TO GC/IV ON STATUS PROJECT, PROVIDING FULL DETAILS ON FINANCIAL ASPECTS.

13. ITEM (B), (C), DOC/41. IN ITS FINAL ACTION, COMMITTEE APPROVED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS IN PARA 17, AS AMENDED BY DOC/41/ADD2, AUTHORIZING ALLOCATION OF \$1 MILLION IN 1976 AND IN 1977 FOR FUND PROGRAM ACTIVITIES (INSTEAD OF \$1.1 MILLION AND \$1.2 MILLION RECOMMENDED IN ADD 2); \$21,700,000 IN 1975, \$27,800,000 IN 1976 AND \$32,500,000 IN 1977 FOC FUND PROGRAM ACTIVITIES; AND APPROVING THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN PER TABLE II OF UNEP/GC/41/ADD2, SUBJECT TO ADJUSTMENT NECESSARY TO TAKE

ACCOUNT OF DECISION CONCERNING LEVEL OF FUND PROGRAM RESERVE FOR 1976 AND 1977. COMMITTEE ALSO RECOMMENDED ED BE REQUESTED REVIEW WITH GOVERNMENTS THEIR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR YEARS 1977 - 1979.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETING AGENDA, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**From:** NAIROBI  
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**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750586/aaaadbv.tel  
**Line Count:** 376  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 7  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <01 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** UNEP: GC III, SESSIONAL COMMITTEE II, AGENDA ITEMS 10 AND 11 (REPORTS, PROCEDURAL AND BUDGET QUESTIONS)  
**TAGS:** SENV, UNEP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006